

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

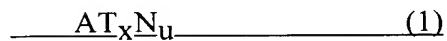
Claim 3 (Currently amended): A ~~fuel cell catalyst~~ material according to claim 1,
containing platinum-containing nitride particles as catalyst particles having a composition
substantially represented by



wherein A contains Pt or Pt and at least one noble metal element selected from the group
consisting of Ru, Pd, Au and Ag, T contains at least one element selected from the group
consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Sn, Mn, Cr, V, Ti, Mo, Nb, Zr, W, Ta and Hf, atomic ratios x and u
fall within ranges $0 \leq x \leq 4$ and $0.005 \leq u \leq 1$, respectively, an average diameter of the
catalyst particles is 0.5 nm to 50 nm, and the platinum-containing nitride particles including a
platinum nitride-based nano-material.

Claims 4-22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended): ~~An~~ A membrane electrode assembly according to
~~claim 6~~ comprising an anode electrode including an anode catalyst layer, a cathode electrode
including a cathode catalyst layer, and an electrolyte layer provided between the anode
electrode and cathode electrode, wherein at least one of the anode and cathode catalyst layers
contains platinum-containing nitride particles as catalyst particles substantially represented
by



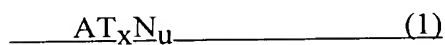
wherein A contains Pt or Pt and at least one noble metal element selected from the group
consisting of Ru, Pd, Au and Ag, T contains at least one element selected from the group

consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Sn, Mn, Cr, V, Ti, Mo, Nb, Zr, W, Ta and Hf, atomic ratios x and u fall within ranges $0 \leq x \leq 4$ and $0.005 \leq u \leq 1$, respectively, an average diameter of the catalyst particles is 0.5 nm to 50 nm, and the platinum-containing nitride particles including a platinum nitride-based nano-material.

Claims 24-27 (Cancelled)

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A fuel cell according to claim 7 comprising an anode electrode including an anode electrode collector and an anode catalyst layer supported by the anode electrode collector, a cathode electrode including a cathode electrode collector facing the anode electrode collector with the anode catalyst layer interposed therebetween and a cathode catalyst layer supported by the cathode electrode collector and interposed between the anode electrode and the cathode electrode collector, and an electrolyte layer provided between the anode electrode and cathode electrode,

wherein at least one of the anode and cathode catalyst layers contains platinum-containing nitride particles as catalyst particles substantially represented by



wherein A contains Pt or Pt and at least one noble metal element selected from the group consisting of Ru, Pd, Au and Ag, T contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Sn, Mn, Cr, V, Ti, Mo, Nb, Zr, W, Ta and Hf, and atomic ratios x and u fall within ranges $0 \leq x \leq 4$ and $0.005 \leq u \leq 1$, respectively, an average diameter of the catalyst particles is 0.5 nm to 50 nm, and the platinum-containing nitride particles including a platinum nitride-based nano-material.

Claims 29-33 (Canceled).